

California GARDEN

MAY-JUNE 1985
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HORTICULTURE CALENDAR

- May 2,3 **"Art Alive - A Celebration of Flowers"**
San Diego Museum of Art, Balboa Park
Open 10:00 am to 5:00 pm daily Adm.
- May 2,9,16,23,30 **Thursday Workshop with Colleen Winchell**
San Diego Floral Association Library, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park
Event Free
Thurs: 10:00 am to 3:00 pm - Information: 479-6433
- May 4,5 **Exotic plant Society 7th Annual Show**
Majorca Room, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park
Sat. & Sun: 11:00 am to 5:00 pm Free
- May 4,5 **Balboa Park African Violet Society 10th Annual Show**
La Jolla Village Square, La Jolla
Sat: 10:00 am to 6:00 pm Sun: 10:00 am to 4:00 pm Free
- May 4.5 **Vista Garden Club Annual Show & Plant Sale**
Brenge Park Recreation Center, 1200 Vale Tr., Vista, CA
Sat: 1:30 to 5:00 pm Sun: 10:00 am to 4:00 pm Free
- May 4,5 **San Diego Epiphyllum Society "Green Thumb Show"**
San Diego Wild Animal Park, San Pasqual Rd., Escondido, CA
Sat. & Sun: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm
- May 5 **Quail Botanical Gardens Annual Spring Plant Sale & Bazaar "Fun & Festival"**
Quail Botanical Gardens, 230 Quail Gardens Dr. Encinitas, CA
Sun: 10:00 am to 4:00 pm Free
- May 8,15,22,29 **Western Flower Arranging with Martha Rosenberg**
San Diego Floral Event Majorca Room, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park
Wed: 10:00 am to 3:00 pm - Information: 298-5182 or 296-2757
- May 12 **San Diego Epiphyllum Society 15th Annual Mother's Day Show "Mother"**
Casa del Prado, Majorca Room, Balboa Park
Sun: 11:00 am to 5:00 pm Free
- May 15 **Final Date for Del Mar Fair Flower & Garden Show Entry Applications**
Information: 755-1161 or 297-0338
- May 18,19 **San Diego Geranium Society 13th Annual Show**
Casa del Prado, Majorca Room, Balboa Park
Sat: 12:00 to 5:00 pm Sun: 10:00 am to 5:00 pm Free
- May 25,26 **San Diego Botanical Garden Foundation Annual Plant Sale**
Casa del Prado, Prado "A" Balboa Park
Sat: 10:00 am to 5:00 pm Sun: 10:00 to 4:00 pm
- June 1,2 **San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society Annual Show**
Casa del Prado, Majorca Room, Balboa Park
Sat: 1:00 to 5:00 pm Sun: 10:00 am to 5:00 pm Free
- June 6,13,20,27 **Thursday Workshop with Colleen Winchell**
San Diego Floral Event Free Floral Crafts Instruction - Open to the Public
San Diego Floral Association Library, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park
Thur: 10:00 am to 3:00 pm Information: 479-6433
- June 8,9 **East County Rose Society Rose Show**
Parkway Plaza Shopping Center, El Cajon, CA
Sat. & Sun: 10:00 am to 5:00 pm Free
- June 9 **Southwest Hemerocallis Society 12th Annual Show "Each New Day"**
Casa del Prado, Majorca Room, Balboa Park
Sun: 12:00 to 5:00 pm Free

(Continued page 95)



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MAY — JUNE 1985

VOLUME 76

NUMBER 3

69 CALADIUMS

Mike Ludwig

71 COMBINE PLANTS FOR ATTRACTIVE ARRANGEMENTS

Tineke Wilders

72 MAIDEN'S TEARS

Bill Gunther

73 FRUITS NEW TO CALIFORNIA

Peggy Winter

74 PROPER LAWN MOWING

Skipper Cope

75 A CALENDAR OF SOUTH AFRICAN BULBS

Karen Kees

77 ORNAMENTAL HELICONIAS

Donald P. Watson and Robert Roy Smith

78 25 YEARS AGO

Carol Greentree

79 CALLA LILIES

Bill Gunther

81 TO CLEAN OR NOT TO CLEAN

Ernest B. Chew

84 HIBISCUS ARRANGEMENT

Adrienne Green

84 75 YEARS AGO

Carol Greentree

85 SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SUMACS

Thomas A. Oberbauer

87 50 YEARS AGO

Carol Greentree

88 BOOK REVIEWS

Allethe Macdonald

91 NOW IS THE TIME

Penny Bunker

COVER:

Drawing of strawflowers, Helichrysum bracteatum, by Pat Maley, a free-lance artist, who illustrates for this magazine and other publications.

BACK COVER:

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Caladiums can be used in many areas of the home landscape — as foundation plantings, in beds under trees, in border beds, as hanging baskets and pot plants. All will add bright, exciting colors all summer long.

CALADIUMS

By Mike Ludwig

For several years tropical plants have become increasingly popular as container plants. Indoor and outdoor locations have literally 'blossomed' with many exotic varieties. A relative of philodendrons and dieffenbachias, caladiums, noted for their rainbowlike color patterns on the almost transparent foliage, can offer even more eye-catching beauty. Because of the increased use of containers in the landscape, this offspring of a Brazilian species, *Caladium bicolor*, brings more potential to the home garden. Known as fancy-leaved

varieties, the large foot-high, heart-shaped leaves come in pink, silver, green, red, and white, with all kinds of variations. There are actually dozens of varieties from which to choose.

Unlike most of the tropical challengers for beauty in the home, caladiums are even more useful as outdoor plants in warm shaded areas. Even though their flowers are relatively inconspicuous, these members of the aroid family give all the benefits of flowering plants. By contributing vivid color to the container garden from late

spring into autumn, caladiums are a natural for many individual spots in partial shade. Window boxes, tubs, pots, and low hanging baskets offer settings for these spectacular plants to show off the varied leaf patterns and color combinations.

The large leaved caladiums are well suited for individual or mass display used with ferns, elephant ears, tuberous begonias, and other similar plants. In combination with more traditional annuals, such as petunias or geraniums, they provide unusual and spectacular effects.

Smaller lance-leaved caladiums, which were derived from *C. picturatum*, are just as colorful as their larger relatives. With a more compact and ruffled-edge foliage, these are only recommended for use indoors in southern California. They require high humidity, bright light, and weekly feedings of diluted fertilizer high in potassium and phosphorous. Most gardeners do not attempt to hold them over to replant the next year.

CULTURE

POTTING:

While caladium plants can be grown from seed, they are usually always grown from tuberous roots, similar to those of calla lilies. A well drained potting medium for containers is recommended. This usually means about equal parts of coarse sand, leaf mold, and ground bark or peat moss. Use a 5-inch pot for a 2 1/2-inch tuber, a 7-inch pot for one larger or two smaller tubers.

Fill the pot a little over half full with the planting mix and set in the tuber with the knobby side up, and cover with 2 inches of mix. Water immediately after planting and then water only when the soil surface dries out. Too much water will cause root rot. In a long container tubers may be set up to 9 inches apart to give them room for optimum growth. Set lance-leaved tubers only 1 inch deep and cover with 1 inch of mix. They may be planted closer together.

OUTDOOR PLANTING:

Replace the top 6 inches of garden soil with the same mix used for pots. Place 1 tablespoonful of bone meal in the bottom of each hole or stir into the mix. Proceed as described above. As soon as there are signs of leaves appearing, bait for snails and slugs.

FERTILIZING:

It should take three to six weeks for the first young leaves to emerge from plantings in the ground or a pot. This is the signal to begin feeding once a week with a balanced fertilizer. A high percentage of potassium and phosphorus will help to produce more highly colored foliage.

WATERING:

All caladiums require high humidity during active growth. Provide more moisture as the leaves develop. Indoor plants can be set on pebbles in a tray of water, but be sure to keep the water level below the top of the pebbles to prevent the roots from becoming soggy and susceptible to root rot. The leaves may be misted, if desired.

The leaves on both indoor and outdoor plants will indicate when they need water by starting to wilt. If a plant unfortunately wilts down completely, do not despair, water thoroughly and it will come back. During hot dry windy days keeping the soil moist at all times is the best way to provide humidity around the plants. Misting will help if it can be done often enough, which is usually not feasible. However, if there is a long period of very hot dry winds, the leaves will suffer from lack of humidity and become crispy even with good care. As long as the soil is moist they will put out new leaves and start growing again, unless it is near the time for them to go dormant naturally. However, if the soil has dried out, watch for any new growth. When the leaves are falling off faster than new ones start growing, let the plants go dormant as explained below.

To keep the plants from going into dormancy too early, keep all the flowers picked off during the blooming season. The colorful display of foliage will last until fall weather brings cooler days (under 60 F) and the leaves begin to turn yellow. This is a clue that it is time to stop feeding and to gradually withhold water. Allow the leaves to remain on the plant so the tubers can store food for next year's growth.

In about a month the tuberous roots should be lifted, most of the dirt removed, and dried in semishade for about 10 days. Dust them with an insecticide fungicide preparation and store for the winter in dry vermiculite or peat moss at a temperature between 50 and 60 F. Healthy bulbs will then be ready for spring planting.

Caladiums contribute greatly to the horticulture landscape. Create a focal point of beauty in your garden with these brightly colored plants. Caladiums are not difficult to grow and they are most rewarding.

Mike Ludwig is a gesneriad hobbyist and a past president of the San Diego Gesneriad Society.

MOVING?

Be sure to send us your new address.

Combine Plants for Attractive Arrangements

By Tineke Wilders

Plants — just like people — enjoy company. They seem to grow better together. When several plants share the same container, it creates a very attractive and lush scene. It is also easier to water plants when they are grouped together.

Let me give you some examples. Let us take a tall tree (this could be a *Ficus benjamina*, a dieffenbachia, a splitleaf philodendron, a rubber tree, or any type of indoor tree), from which the lower part has lost leaves, giving the tree a rather bare look. Adding several plants to the empty space underneath the tree will give a much more attractive arrangement. Ground covers, hanging plants, even climbing plants, or a combination of the three can also be used.

If a multi- or single-stemmed false aralia, *Dizygotheca elegantissima*, has lost most of its bottom leaves, which it tends to do when the surrounding humidity is too low, get a few smaller-sized plants of the same variety, preferably of different heights. Pot them up in the soil together with the tree. Instantly, you have a full and bushy tree again. This trick can be done with many other types, too.

One can also create surprising effects by using different types of plants in different shades of green, or even color, in their leaves. For example: a red-colored Hawaiian ti, an umbrella tree (schefflera), a variegated pineapple, and one of the ivies. There are many different shapes and sizes of ivy leaves.

Beaucarnea recurvata, commonly called ponytail palm or elephant foot tree, will look fuller with the addition of a couple of spiderplants, chlorophytums, provided the above-ground bulbous base of this interesting palm has not taken up all the soil space. The two complement each other quite nicely.

These two relatives of the same family go well together: the soft feathery *Asparagus plumosus*, which grows mainly upright, complements its pendant relative, *A. sprengeri*, better known as asparagus fern.

When selecting plants to group together, look for either contrasting or matching shapes and colors of the leaves, whichever you prefer. To try out a combination before repotting, simply leave the plants in the pots and set them around the host plant for a week or so. If you are pleased with the combination, plant them directly in the soil; otherwise, change them around until the

effect is pleasing. Arranging plants together enables you to change the indoor scenery as often as you desire.

To add a splash of color, use flowering seasonal plants, such as begonia, kalanchoe, a potted chrysanthemum, a hanging fuchsia, or an African violet. When the flowering plant quits blooming, just replace it with a fresh one. Also use fresh cut flowers, individually placed inside a plastic waterpik (available from your florist or nursery) which is inserted into the soil and kept filled with water. Replenish the flowers as they wilt. For colorful foliage, look for croton (*Codiaeum*), rex begonia, dieffenbachia, red prayer plant, zebra plant, red or white fittonia, Florida beauty (*Dracaena surculosa*).

The conventional clay pot makes an ideal home for several plants. Three small plants will fit snugly inside a 5-inch pot and when grouped artistically, they create an instant plant arrangement. It also makes an ideal last-minute housewarming gift. Take for example, for the back, a tall-growing plant like croton, ficus, sansevieria, or a palm. Then to the left, choose from a peperomia, a fittonia, or a rex begonia. Then in front and towards the right, use a trailing plant, such as variegated ivy, wax plant (hoya), or golden pothos. 'Marble Queen' is one of the favorite pothos cultivars.

A plant arrangement will remain attractive for months or even longer. To keep it attractively shaped, it is necessary to do occasional pinching and pruning. You may also have to replace a plant as it grows out of proportion. Simply lift it out of the container and plant it up individually in a larger pot. Replace it with a smaller one.

If you are fond of cactus, make up a shallow cactus dish with different varieties of cacti together. Add pieces of driftwood, bark chips, or colored stones as decoration.

Grouping plants together will give unlimited combinations for a coffee table, dining table (great as a centerpiece), bedroom, bathroom, or any room. The ideas are limitless. Let your own imagination go to work and enjoy the startling results.

Tineke Wilders, a native of Holland, recently moved to southern California from Canada where she was a Canadian TV/radio/media personality, specializing in tropical and subtropical plants.

Maiden's Tears

Text and Photo By
Bill Gunther



Botanists tell us that when we refer to plant species and sub-species (as contrasted to hybrids and cultivars) we should use scientific terminology rather than colloquial common names. They tell us that in the case of species and sub-species, common names often are more confusing than definitive, because many common names, particularly in different localities, apply to different and unrelated species.

What the botanists say is correct. But nonetheless, there are some special cases where we feel justified in using popular terminology. Maiden's tears is one such special case.

The name maiden's tears is descriptive, and it is beautiful, and it can be used without creating confusion because only this one plant is popularly identified, anyplace and everywhere, by that name.

The scientific alternative to calling this plant maiden's tears is to call it *Silene vulgaris* variety *maritima*. If that is the alternative, let's use the common name, thank you!

Maiden's Tears is a perennial with attractive foliage, beautiful flowers, and a very long blooming season. The accompanying photo provides a perspective of the shape of the foliage and of the form of the blossoms. Notice the round protuberance at the base of each blossom; these are the tears.

But far better than to look at a photo is to look at the plant itself. An excellent place to admire it is in the Old Fashioned Garden at the Quail Botanical Gardens in Encinitas, California. At that location, note that some maiden's tears plants have spread flat over the surface in the fashion of ground-covers, while others drape down vertically over retaining walls in the fashion of a hanging-basket plant. In both aspects, this plant performs beautifully. Understandably so, because its native habitat is on the coastal cliffs and on

the seashores of southwestern Europe. The cliffs are vertical; the seashore is flat. In nature, during the course of many millions of years, maiden tears has adapted itself to both situations. So use it as a flat ground cover, or use it as a drape over retaining walls, or use it as a hanging basket or use it in all three ways. It is very versatile.

In overall size, one plant will grow to cover an area about 3 feet in diameter. Maximum height of the blossoms above ground level is about 6 inches. Each leaf is less than an inch in length; each blossom is almost an inch in diameter. The blossoms are white.

This plant needs a sunny location, good drainage, and weekly watering. Beyond that, it is not fussy. Any kind of soil — rich or poor, acid or alkaline, clay or sand, with or without humus — is OK. Throw some snail bait on it every couple weeks, but otherwise it is quite resistant to all varmints, insects, and plant diseases.

If your favorite neighborhood nursery does not have maiden's tears in stock, know that it is propagated by the Docents at the Quail Botanical Gardens, and is available at the plant sales there.

Bill Gunter's keen interest in all facets of horticulture is seen in his ever-changing garden. He is co-editor of "California Newsletter of the Palm Society" and a trustee of Quail Botanical Gardens.

Author's note: Horticultural references mention that there are two different rare forms of maiden's tears: one has double blossoms, the other has pink blossoms. If by chance you have one of these rare forms in your garden, please donate a start of it to the Quail Botanical Gardens.

FRUITS NEW TO CALIFORNIA

By Peggy Winter

The last five years have been an exciting time for the growers of subtropical and tropical fruits in California. Some tropical fruit trees that had never been tried because they were considered too tender have shown surprising hardiness once they were brought in and given a chance. Other plants that have been tried many times with no success are now able to withstand our warmer milder winters and are producing quite well.

The list would have to begin with Hawaii's 'Solo' papaya which is available in any fruit market. Until a few years ago no one had reported success with coaxing this plant to live through the winter outside. In protected locations, the harder Mexican papaya would survive, but success was not frequent. Now few members of the California Rare Fruit Growers who live south of Santa Barbara, California will bother with anything except the 'Solo' papayas since the taste is considered superior to the larger Mexican variety. The preferred location is up against a stucco wall too hot for anything else, but this is to help bring up the sugar content of the fruit rather than to keep the plant alive through the winter.

Since the seed of the papaya is readily available and the plant a fast grower, it is an excellent one for the beginner to try. Sterilize (200 F. for 1 hour in the oven) the planter mix before planting; the seedlings are susceptible to damping off. Place the flat or pot with seed in a superwarm place. A south facing window is excellent. One can plant at any time, but if the containers are outside, the seed will not germinate until around the 15th of July. Finally, when transplanting into the ground pick not only the hottest location you can find, but also one with fast drainage. More papayas die of wet feet in winter than by actual low temperatures.

A yellow fruit with five wings called star fruit is appearing in some markets. This is the carambola, a crisp sweet fruit from Asia. Few people realize that this plant will grow and produce fruit in southern California. It is available in a few specialty nurseries, but it is not plentiful yet.

Mangoes have grown and produced fruits in this area for many years, but longtime San Diego gardeners are still often surprised to see a tree full of this luscious fruit, since the nurseries generally have not stocked them. They are readily grown from seed, but many of the fruits available in the supermarkets have been in cold storage for so long that the seeds are no longer viable.



Artist: Ron Shunk

Not everyone is particularly thrilled by the news that the black sapote will thrive here. This persimmon relative has fruit with a green skin and inner flesh that is either black or a very dark chocolate color. To those who love this fruit, the chilled pulp is likened to chocolate and is frequently mixed with a dessert topping. To those not in love with the fruit, the warm flesh tastes like pure axle grease. Either way, the leaves are evergreen and so shiny that the tree is very ornamental.

Bananas have been a popular landscape plant, but the only variety available was 'Orinoco' or Morse banana. Though the fruit tastes like a banana, the consistency left much to be desired and when the stalks mature they rarely produce more than a few bananas. Now there are 25 to 30 varieties available including some of the better commercial fruit. A few, such as the Cuban red, do better in a hotter location, but many varieties thrive here. An improved 'Orinoco' is also available for those people living in places too cold for the better fruiting types. It has also been discovered that the reason the 'Orinoco' produced so few

fruit was because they were grown strictly for their tropical foliage. The same plant, kept heavily mulched and fed, watered deeply and often, and kept in small clumps rather than giant ones, surprised everyone by producing enormous stalks of fruit.

There are 90-year-old lychee trees in San Diego County, and though they do not produce fruit every year, they are as beautiful as a *Ficus benjamina* (and just a bit similar). In truth one reason the lychee is so prized everywhere is that the alternate bearing problem seems to be universal, making the fruit all the more treasured when it does appear.

There are many, many other tropical and subtropical fruit trees that do well here. A 15 foot coffee tree growing at the corner of my house was photographed last year for a Folger's Coffee advertisement. The tree produces about as much as the ones in the tropics. There are 15-foot allspice trees doing well at the San Diego Zoo and a 10-foot cinnamon tree is flowering at a specialty nursery in Chula Vista, California this spring.

It is quite impossible to tell which tropical species is going to become peaked and pass away at 40 F and which is going to adapt and thrive. Even members of the same family may react dissimilarly. Breadfruit, one of the most beautiful trees in the tropics, is so tender that it droops at temperatures below 50 F and succumbs at 45 F.

Jack fruit is related to the breadfruit, but has withstood temperatures down to 27 F without harm. Last winter a jack fruit at the San Diego Zoo produced the first inflorescence recorded in California. The trees are now 15 feet tall. Jack fruit is the largest fruit in the world and rare fruit growers throughout the state are hoping it will fruit.

One advantage California growers have is a period of cooling before any chance of frost. This is very different from what Florida experiences. Their frosts hit when the plants are totally unprepared. It may be 85 F the day before a frost and new growth is covering every tree. Then comes the night and with it, a deep freeze hits and holds for several hours. Florida's normal temperatures are far more tropical, but if a plant can adapt to our hardening off period of gradual cooling, then it may survive the winters in southern California better than there. One example is the African tulip tree which is considered too tender for Florida, but does well here in frost-free areas.

For fruit growing, these last several winters have surely been the best of two worlds. There have been plenty of chill hours (hours of temperatures below 45 F) for the low chill deciduous fruits to produce well. Peaches, pears, apples, plums, etc. have all given bountiful crops. On the other hand, there have been no severely cold nights and no frosts in many places. This has produced great crops of tropical fruits; mangos and apples growing side by side have had heavy

loads of fruit.

Our present weather may be part of California's normal cycle or it may be the beginning of the greenhouse effect we have heard so much about. Whatever the cause, the results have been spectacular.

Peggy Winter grows these fruits in her own backyard. She is a regular contributor and a former editor of the Rare Fruit Growers Newsletter. Professionally, she is a travel agent.

Proper Lawn Mowing

By Skipper Cope

My neighbor, Clemson Griggs, was a manufacturer of lawn mowers for many years, and traveled all over the country giving expert advice on the maintenance of golf courses, private estates, and public lands. He recommends that lawns in southern California and similar climates should be watered liberally, fertilized once or twice a year, and properly mowed.

To rehabilitate an established lawn, scarify and fertilize, then water liberally until it has grown to a minimum of 2 inches. After a new lawn has been planted properly, water frequently, and again allow the grass to grow to at least 2 inches. Now the foundation has been laid for the most important step in lawn maintenance — the correct use of a lawn mower.

There are two kinds of power mowers, the reel and the rotary. The reel-type is far superior to the rotary because it cuts off the top of the grass completely, while the rotary simply tears off the top. This is the reason rotary mowers are never used on good golf courses — it is essential that the reel blades kept well sharpened.

Mr. Griggs emphasizes that the correct cutting height is vital to a good lawn. He explains that grass is really like a flower. When cut too short, the end result is a lawn of brown stems that cannot form a turf thick enough to keep weeds from sprouting.

Adjust the mower so the cutter bar is 2 inches from a cement surface. Mow the lawn once a week. It should only need to be watered every week or two, depending on the weather. This is the recommendation of a "mower man."

Then he said, "As I look around our area, every really beautiful, successful lawn that I see is cut to a minimum of 2 inches. Cutting lawns too short is what ruins a good start."



A Calendar of South African Bulbs

Text and Illustration by Karen Kees

In the last issue, March-April, I wrote about the South African bulbs that bloom from January through April. The largest number of species bloom in winter and early spring, but the show never stops. Some of the biggest and most colorful displays are put on by South African bulbs during late spring, summer, and fall.

Two showy South Africans begin to bloom in May: agapanthus, lily of the Nile, and watsonias. These plants are frequently used in gardens. Throughout San Diego County the blue heads of the ubiquitous agapanthus are seen in masses. Watsonias are just as lovely and easy to grow but less commonly planted. Their tall 3-to-6 foot

spikes add a needed vertical accent to our gardens. These gladioluslike flowers come in white, pink, red, or lavender. Watsonias have a shorter bloom than agapanthus, which bloom right through June.

As the agapanthus fade in June, the fiery crocosmias start their display. Like their close relatives the montbretias (*Crocasmia Crocosmiflora*) crocosmias need summer water, therefore, are excellent in perennial borders. *Crocasmia masaniorum* blooms first; its orange flowers unfurl on top of gracefully arched 2-to-3 foot stems. The gladioluslike foliage forms clumps that increase slowly by runners.

Another crocosmia comes on the scene in July. 'Lucifer' is the successful end product of a long hybridization process. Fire engine red 'Lucifer' is a striking sight. Its brilliant blooms among pure white Shasta daisies are the highlight of early summer. Crocosmia bulbs are never completely dormant and often take a year to recover when purchased as dry bulbs. They are worth the wait.

The doldrums of August, with its heat and declining flower displays, can dishearten any gardener. *Amaryllis belladonna* (naked ladies) save the month. As I close the blinds at dawn to keep the blazing heat out, I am wondering when the first bud will peek up. A belladonna does not keep a tight schedule; in some years they bloom a month later than others, but the main bloom is always in August. If buds show in July it can mean a bumper crop. Suddenly the first buds appear! Shooting out of leafless bulbs, you can almost see them grow. They are a foot tall in a week and in full bloom within two. It is exhilarating. Their energy is inspiring. The lilylike pink flowers are fragrant and adorn the bare 2 foot stalk. A succession of buds continue opening into September. If your naked ladies are growing in a moist spot, plant pale yellow nasturtiums among the withering leaves in late spring; the nasturtiums will cover the bare ground and look pretty when the amaryllis flower. Do not confuse this South African species with its South American cousin, the *Hippeastrum*, Dutch Amaryllis, that blooms in spring.

Every September I am reminded how lucky I was to find my old farm house with its legacy of heirloom plants. As the common naked ladies fade, an unusual variant of it starts to bloom — *A. belladonna* 'Picotee Variant'. 'Picotee' is not available commercially; it came with the house. As the name 'Picotee' implies, its big trumpet flowers have an edging of color: bright pink around a white throat. In sunlight it shimmers as if sprinkled with diamond dust. It is so gorgeous I look forward to it all year.

Another sparkling fall bloomer (October through November) is the nerine, known as the iridescent flower. They, also, are sprinkled with diamond dust. Neries are closely related to *A. belladonna* and share their habits, but are smaller. There are many species and a variety of hybrids, therefore, a wide range of colors exists including

white, pink, coral, red, smoky lavender, and bi-colors. Up close a nerine is a sight you will not forget. Still rather rare in the trade, they are sometimes available locally or by mail-order.

The last month of the year brings a lovely surprise. South Africa offers us a charming Christmas present — the homoglossum. Even though you may not have heard of them, they are wonderful. In early December the 1-inch gladioluslike flowers open — they are Christmas red! Their slender stems are 18 inches long. Miniature red gladiolus in bloom for Christmas; what more could one ask?

As the year closes I notice a bud on the oxalis: the cycle begins again.

References recommended for further reading: "Bulbs, How To Select, Grow and Enjoy" by George Harmon. An HP book. "Wildflowers of South Africa" by Sima Eliovson. Distributed by ISBS, Inc., P.O. Box 1632, Beaverton, OR 97075. For a list of mail-order sources, if not available in local nurseries, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to Karen Kees, 12819 Selma Court, Poway, CA 92064.

Karen Kees is a professional artist, horticultural writer-illustrator and garden designer-consultant. Karen's Poway, California, garden has been featured in "Sunset," "San Diego Home-Garden," and "Better Homes and Garden's Country Home."

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Ornamental Heliconias

By Donald P. Watson and Robert Roy Smith

While heliconias are not commonly grown in southern California, they have long been popular in tropical and subtropical regions because of their showy inflorescences. They were so attractive that early explorers of the tropics returned to Europe with several species that became prized greenhouse specimens. Heliconias originally were classified as species of bananas because of their similar foliage. In 1771 Linnaeus established the new genus *Heliconias* naming it after Helicon, a mountain in Greece, the home of Apollo and the muses.

Confusion exists about when some of the 100 to 150 species of heliconias were introduced from Central and South America. In tropical America, heliconias are often called wild bananas, locally; they are referred to as false birds-of-paradise.

Heliconias can be distinguished from both bananas and birds-of-paradise by their 4 to 30 conspicuous colored bracts and blue berries containing 1 to 3 seeds without tufts of orange hair.

The large boat-shaped bracts often hold water that serves as a breeding place for mosquitoes.

Natives in tropical America used the leaves for wrapping food for storage and cooking and as siding and roofing for houses. The underground stems were used as food, and the inflorescences for decorative purposes.

Heliconia plants are erect, from 1 1/2 to 35 feet high, with various sized leaves. The stem is formed by the overlapping of the petioles, or the blades, of the leaves. Each leaf is composed of two halves separated by a tapering midrib.

The seedling soon develops an underground stem (rhizome) from which buds and new aerial stems arise. When the inflorescence emerges from the terminal growing point, it is fairly well developed. It consists of an elongated stem (peduncle) to which the bracts are attached. The bracts vary in size, texture, and color. The lowest bract is often sterile; others conceal flowers that vary in length, size, and color.

Flowers contain one sterile stamen, five functional stamens, and three carpels. The flower secretes large quantities of nectar, making it attractive to hummingbirds, which may contribute to pollination.

The fruit is a one-to-three-seeded berry, 1.5 cm in diameter, green or yellow when immature and dark blue when ripe. Seeds vary in size and shape, but they usually are three-sided, two sides flattened and the third rounded.

Some Common Species

In 1968, Dr. Robert R. Smith named and described the middle-American species of heliconias of Florida. With the help of this information, we can describe 13 species that may be grown in warm regions of southern California. They fall in the following four categories*:

Inflorescence erect and in one plane

- Heliconia aurantiaca* -- orange bracts, yellow flowers
- H. striata* -- green and yellow bracts, variegated leaves
- H. bourgaeana* -- rose-colored spathe with green margins
- H. caribaea* -- large yellow bracts
- H. humilis* -- large red bracts
- H. psittacorum* f. -- rosy-red bracts, conspicuous orange flowers
- H. wagnerana* -- bracts with red base, yellow streak on top

Inflorescence erect and in more than one plane

- Heliconia metallica* -- small to yellow bracts
- H. latispatha* -- large orange bracts

Inflorescence pendant and in one plane

- Heliconia rostrata* -- rose-colored bracts with green tips
- H. catheta* sp. nov. var. *velutina* var. nov. -- red triangle toward base of bracts, yellow tips
- H. pendula* (*Collinsiana*) var. *collinsiana* -- red bracts covered with white bloom.

Cultural Notes

Heliconias are usually propagated by division of the roots or underground stems and planted 2 feet apart in rich, deep porous soil. New upright stalks arise from the tips of lateral underground stems. Growth will be rapid if you limit the amount of water until the aboveground shoots are developed. When shoots are 8 to 10 feet high, water abundantly and fertilize heavily. Plenty of sunlight is recommended.

To harvest flower stalks, remove the whole stem by cutting it at soil level to induce the production of new stems. After 4 or 5 years, the roots and underground stems become thick. Division and replanting will increase the yield of flowering stems. Rarely is injury from insects and diseases a serious problem.

Flowering is most common in late spring and summer months.



Heliconia pendula (*H. Collinsiana*) var. *velutina*

Care of Cut Flowers

Most heliconias will last longer if the leaves are removed when they are harvested. To improve the appearance of the bracts, wash them in water with a little detergent and rinse with fresh water. Removal of the flowers will often improve the appearance of the bracts. To lengthen their keeping quality, soak the bracts in fresh water for 30 minutes every 3 days. Cut heliconias will respond to the use of chemical preservatives in the water and the presence of indirect sunlight. Never refrigerate cut stems.

Dr. Watson, Prof. Emeritus, Dept. of Horticulture, University of Hawaii, now lives in San Diego and is a botanical consultant at the San Diego Zoo. He is enjoying his own garden.

Condensed from circular 482 by Donald P. Watson and Robert Ray Smith, published by the Cooperative Extension Service, University of Hawaii in 1974.



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CALLA LILIES

The white calla, *Zantedeschia aethiopica*, is a familiar sight in southern California gardens. Because of its specific name *aethiopica*, one would assume that it comes from Ethiopia — but actually it is native only to South Africa, which is in the opposite hemisphere.

The common white calla, *Zantedeschia aethiopica*, was brought into California with the first American nurseryman and was listed by Colonel Warren of Sacramento in 1853. From that time on, the calla has been a common door-yard plant in many home gardens near the coast where freezing weather is not a problem. The reason callas have been grown so extensively in California may be attributed to mild weather and to the dry summers. Continued wet weather or excessive irrigation causes serious damage to calla plantings.

Callas are native to South Africa and nowhere else. There they are a common wayside weed and called pig-lily. Commonly called calla lilies, they are not lilies, nor are they related to lilies, but belong to the arum family which includes caladiums, jack-in-the-pulpit, and philodendrons.

White callas are available in different forms or varieties. *Z. a. minor* or 'Little Gem' is one of the dwarf varieties grown. 'Godfrey' is another. These dwarfs may grow to good size under favorable conditions, but when confined to a small pot they produce the smallest flowers. If planted in good soil in the garden, they are often disappointing because they are not sufficiently dwarf and the blooms are too large. A very large calla, known as *Z. var. grandiflora* has been grown occasionally.

The yellow calla, *Z. Elliottiana*, blooming in June and July, has been the leading commercial variety grown in California and is prized more than any other for use as a pot plant. The rich golden yellow flowering plants are sold by the florists and nurseries. The roots or corms are treated much like a true bulb and must have good drainage to escape root troubles.

Another popular species is *Z. albomaculata*, which has either creamy yellow or milk-white flowers with a blotch of crimson at the base. The leaves are spotted with white like those of the yellow calla.

Although it is relatively less popular, the pink or rose calla *Z. rehmanii*, has prevalingly dark wine-red to deep purple spathes (petal-like bracts), but there is much variation, ranging from these more somber hues through pink to nearly white. It is limited almost entirely to greenhouse culture and is often used as a potted indoor plant.



Zantedeschia albomaculata — The type illustration, from Bot. Mag. Plate 5140, 1859.

The black calla, *Arum palaestinum*, is an interesting spring blooming native of Syria and Israel. This species has been imported into California many times; one of them was from England in 1880. It grows well outdoors in the coastal area of California under the same soil and climatic conditions as white callas. The 6- to 10-inch long spathe is green, more or less blotched or spotted with purple on the outside and rich black-purple inside. The upper part of the spadix (spike that carries the true small flowers) is a deep purple and is much shorter than the spathe. The dark colored flowers appear in late winter or early spring, but do not last very long. They have a musty wine odor, but are not offensive like the twist arum, *Helicodiceros muscivorus*, or the dragon arum, *Dracunculus vulgaris*. Twist arum is a deciduous tuberous plant with a dark purple — brown spathe that is hairy inside. Unlike the calla, the spadix is bent sharply at right angles



The brightly-patterned leaves of *Arum italicum* constitute a garden attraction all through the springtime. Then in early summer, appears the yellow spadix of blossoms shielded by a greenish-white spathe. Finally, in late summer, the changing show climaxes with a little forest of 8" vertical spikes topped by clusters of brilliantly colored (yellow and/or red) fruits. (Don't eat them; plant them)



at about its middle. The dragon-fingered leaves of the dragon arum are odd and interesting. It blooms in May, lasting four or five days, and smells to high heaven.

Still another related plant is *Arum italicum*, often seen in California gardens where the short-stemmed, white-veined green leaves and greenish flowers appear more or less unnoticed, but the plants are enjoyed by most gardeners, primarily for the yellow or red seed clusters that develop later in the year after the leaves have died down. However, it is a favorite plant of flower arrangers who grow it for the long-lasting arrow-shaped leaves.

There are many additional related genera in the arum family, but they may be classed as oddities without much horticultural value.

Adapted, with permission, from Vol. 4 of *Plant Life*, the publication of the American Plant Life Society.

Zantedeschia elliottiana — THE GOLDEN AROID LILY.
The first illustration of this species, reproduced from Rev. Hort. Belg. 23:



Palms are ideal for poolside planting. They are beautiful in form; they soften the harshness of the pool's perimeter; they screen off the starkness of the surrounding fence; their reflection on the water surface makes it more inviting; they provide an illusion of tropical warmth, and they don't drop messy leaves into the water.

To Clean Or Not To Clean

a better concept for pool landscapes

By Ernest B. Chew

Cleaning a swimming pool has to be one of the least fun-filled chores mankind has ever worked himself up to. This article is being written to help those who find pool cleaning a frustrating drudgery.

In most cases the problem of plant litter within the pool area is one that need not exist. This is the result of poor plant selection for the landscape surrounding the pool. There are too many plantings, such as jacaranda or pepper trees, that drop leaves and flowers continuously and it is even worse when they are planted on the windward side of the pool. There are quite a few

other commonly grown culprits: bamboo, bougainvillea, eucalyptus, pampas grass, and pines. Deciduous plants, during leaf drop, can also be a problem. There is a tremendous selection of non-littering plants that can be used around pools so there is no excuse for using the wrong plants.

Let's stop for a minute and consider what a swimming pool is all about. The pool is a place for exercise and the surrounding area is for relaxing in the sun. This would signify a certain fallacy in using shade trees in the area. If a tree-type planting is wanted, there are a good many selections that are clean. Drought-tolerant tree aloes or

giant euphorbias will give a structural effect. Dracaenas, cordylines, and yuccas will create clean poolside designs. The larger araliads, such as Queensland umbrella tree, *Brassaia actinophylla*; schefflera; snowflake tree, *Trevesia palmata*; and an evergreen shrub similar to schefflera, *Tupidanthus calyptratus* will give a lush tropical look. Although there is some leaf drop, the leaves are large and easy to clean up.

The bananas, *Musa* species, are easily maintained and would give some height if planted in a sheltered side to protect the attractive large leaves from wind damage. Giant bird-of-paradise, *Strelitzia nicolai*, is another suitable plant. In shade areas near the pool structures or the house, the larger tree ferns will generally give litter-free greenery. The palms could even serve the need for small shade areas without cutting out too much of the sun. King palm, *Archontophoenix cunninghamiana*, is self cleaning and if the flower heads are removed early, there is no mess from flowers or seeds. The thatch palm, *Howea forsterana*, is not self cleaning, but it is easy to clean up and has no flower or seed drop.

Slow growing palms remain the same size for such a long time that they can be used in place of shrubs. The windmill palm from China, *Trachycarpus fortunei*, and the Mediterranean fan palm, *Chamaerops humilis* are two suggestions. The blue hesper palm, *Brahea armata*, is also a slow grower that will give a color contrast with its blue-gray foliage. There is also a good selection of shrubs with the desired characteristics of being controllable, clean, and having no thorns or stickers. *Fatsia japonica*, Japanese aralia has large glossy dark green leavesthat are easy to pick up, but you must keep the seed heads cut off. *Griselinia*, too, is a good selection for its well groomed appearance at all times. Different cultivars of raphiolepis and any of the hibiscus are easily controlled and will add color to the landscape. Camellias make a handsome clean planting the year around in partially shaded areas. In early spring the blooms of *Pittosporum tobira* with shiny dark green leaves, and the small variety, 'Variegata,' with gray-green foliage edged in white, have the fragrance of orange blossoms.

A good number of the Australian grevilleas are now available and will do nicely as clean pool-side shrubs. They look better if allowed to grow freely with only a little tipping once in a while, so do not put a larger species near the pool and try to keep it small by pruning. Some of the grevilleas become enormous.

The smaller bird-of-paradise, *Strelitzia reginae*, or the new small colorful variegated cultivars of New Zealand flax, *Phormium tenax*, make attractive shrub-size specimens. Another colorful one is *Limonium perezii*, a perennial statice, which also makes a good beach plant.

Aloes are one of a number of drought-tolerant shrubs that are also clean and add color to the pool area. Some of the unarmed agaves, *Agave attenuata*, for instance, will give an architectural

structure to the area. Never use the armed varieties.

Neat and easy to keep ground covers range in height from low prostrate to 2-foot tall upright ones. Fortnight lily, *Dietes*, is an upright grower. Clivia; agapanthus; red-hot-poker, *Kniphofia*; daylily; lilyturf, *Liriope*; mondo grass or lilyturf, *Ophiopogon* are upright growing with arching leaves. Many of these have both short and tall varieties. Some of the grasses such as festuca, either the green or blue, are even a little drought tolerant.



A suggestion to pool owners from Del Mar landscape architect Paul Mahalik: before planting around your pool, set your potted plants in tentative position — then look at the balance, the contrasts, and the reflections in the water — then make appropriate adjustments by changing position of the potted plants before planting them.



Succulents for the pool area would include crassulas, kalanchoes, (both colorful), the sedums, and the commonly called "ice plants." Gazanias and osteospermums, African daisies, do well but are short lived. Osteospermum becomes quite rampant and needs to be controlled, which makes it look unsightly part of the year.

Although a good many of these plants are salt tolerant, an overdose of pool chemicals will be detrimental. One way to protect the root systems and plants from the splashing or flooding pool water is to raise the ground level of the planting bed higher than the pool. Curbing is even better to keep the splashed water from draining to the beds and soaking into the soil.

The plants listed are only a few selected from the long list of useable poolside plants. Before you buy the plants, make sure you have learned all you can about the litter problems they may have.

Any pool is more attractive when softened with plant material, but plan carefully and do not make extra work for yourself.

Ernest Chew is a highly respected horticultural consultant in the San Diego area.

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By Carol Greentree

"An Open Letter to the Members of San Diego Good Folks"

Three years ago when the San Diego Floral Association was born . . . it was freely commented that though its objects were admirable its existence would be brief. The Association, however, has just completed its third year and is yet in a vigorous youth . . . it will hold its annual meeting and elect seven directors . . . With its large and influential membership, its hitherto good record for fulfilling its promises . . . It has and can in the future help realize the dream of a beautiful city.

Good people, do think about your directors. The ideal director will believe in the Association as a serious power for good. He or she will have some time to give and the inclination to give it to the organization. Such a person should be of good standing in the community, with a residence or office central to facilitate attendance at meetings. (For the chosen seven must attend regularly.) Among them must be a majority of good business heads. Mere love of flowers or success in their culture is not necessarily an indication of fitness. A certain amount of tact and a great deal of amiability are almost essential, for we flower lovers are in a sense artists and contrary folks to manage in a bunch . . .

I would like to insist on the business end. The CALIFORNIA GARDEN properly managed can be made into a valuable property. It has lived a whole year. It has arrived at the dignity of having its contents noted by the daily press, and whole articles have been stolen by papers of like nature . . . I wish you a discerning choice.

Sincerely,
ALFRED D. ROBINSON
June, 1910

- To recondition clay pots, soak in a solution of one part muriatic acid to four parts water. Brush if necessary and rinse thoroughly in clean water.

BARBARA JONES



Arrangement by Adrienne Green
Hibiscus and a piece of driftwood, painted black, are artistically arranged in a black container.

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Casa del Prado, Balboa Park
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Rhus laurina. Laurel-like leaves of this native plant gives it the common name, laurel sumac. The light green leaves, often with pink margins and pink leaf stalks, are pleasantly aromatic. Small whitish flowers in dense, branched clusters appear from May through July and sometimes to December. Birds are attracted to the white berrylike fruit. This sumac is suitable for a clipped hedge or a bank cover where frosts are rare.

Southern California Sumacs

By Thomas A. Oberbauer

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Three sumacs, the laurel sumac (*Rhus laurina*), lemonade berry (*R. integrifolia*), and sugarbush (*R. ovata*) that are predominate members of native vegetation in the southern California region all make fine additions to the ornamental garden. None of them usually grow higher than 10 to 12 feet. Lemonade berry and sugarbush are often only 3 to 5 feet high. Once started, they require very little water.

Rhus laurina is found from southern Santa Barbara County to northern Baja California, Mexico and serves as one of the indications of the Coastal Sage Scrub vegetation community. In contrast to the low growing, gray-green California sage brush (*Artemisia californica*), white sage and flat-topped buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*), laurel sumac is a dark green with large leaves and dark red new growth. It flowers later than most shrubs in this plant community, and the delicate white flowers occur in cone-shaped clusters at the tips of branches.

Following winters with damaging frosts, laurel sumac can be seen with rusty orange dead branch tips, but usually resprout the following spring. Other than susceptibility to frost, it is very hardy and well adapted to life in the fire-prone coastal sage scrub and chaparral. Within a few weeks after its upper parts have been charred and apparently dead from fire, it sends up shiny new leaf sprouts.

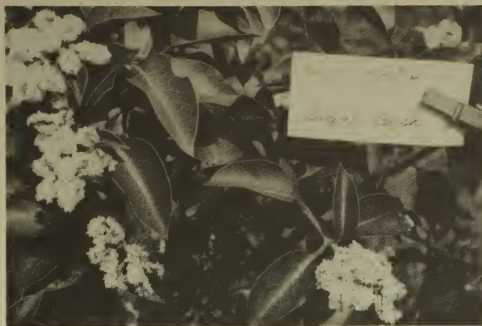


PHOTO BY BILL GUNTHER

Rus ovata. An evergreen shrub, called sugar bush, remains attractive throughout the year. Colorful red buds, which form early in the season, give added color for a long period of time before the creamy-white or pinkish clusters of flowers appear from March through May are followed by acid-covered reddish fruits.

Sugar bush was featured in Helen Chamlee's native garden, "Canyon Trails."

Laurel sumac is a member of the Anacardiaceae or cashew family as are all the sumacs. Besides the cashew, other well known members of this mostly tropical family are the mango, pistachio nut, poison oak, poison ivy, and the Baja California, Mexico elephant tree or torote. *Pachycormus discolor*. A number of these, such as poison oak and poison ivy, contain toxins which cause strong allergic reactions in humans. Laurel sumac itself is suspected of being responsible for a mild skin rash on some people.

Like the laurel sumac, the lemonade berry and the sugarbush retain their leaves all summer and there are occasions following prolonged periods of drought in which the lemonade berry is one of the few green plants visible in its habitat. The lemonade berry is restricted to a narrow band along the coast, usually extending inland only a few miles. In some of the coastal canyons, lemonade berry, laurel sumac, and toyon, *Heteromeles arbutifolia*, form a type of sumac woodland, while in locations exposed to wind and sea air, it may only grow a few feet tall. *Rhus integrifolia* has

the common name lemonade berry because it produces large flattened berries with a sticky coating that tastes of lemon. In fact, the natives in the southern California area are reported to have concocted a beverage by mixing these berries with water, and hikers today often use them to flavor drinks.

The sugarbush is more frost tolerant than the lemonade berry and the laurel sumac and grows in the heart of the chaparral of southern California and northern Baja California. Its name comes from a sweet exudate it produces. Sugarbush is found mostly in sandy granitic soils and its waxy looking leaves are easily distinguished from the dark needle leaf chamise, *Adenostoma fasciculatum*, with which it is associated.

The basket bush is found mostly in interior regions extending up into the lower mountains of southern California. Its three lobed leaves, low growth, and deciduous nature give it the aspect of poison oak. Its common name refers to resilient and straight stems produced by this plant which were used in the weaving of baskets by the natives in this region.

Areas which receive prolonged winter frost would not be suited for lemonade berry, and areas in which temperatures frequently drop below 28 or 30 F would be unsuitable for laurel sumac, though it does well even in interior regions when it is planted on slopes with air movement. The sugarbush prefers sandy, well drained soils, but lemonade berry and even laurel sumac can tolerate relatively heavy clay soils.

So intense is the fight for water on a desert that some plants, notably the brittle bush, actually drops poisonous leaves to kill the seedlings of other plants beneath its branches that would threaten its water supply. This accounts for the wide spacing for plants on the desert. It is the old story of survival of the fittest. Plant seeds on the desert must be ready and waiting for rain so as not to sprout when the rain is not sufficient to provide enough moisture for the entire growing period. Many plant seeds are covered with a shell that will dissolve only when there is sufficient water to sustain the plant until it has grown enough to produce its own seeds.

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All of these native sumacs are important for wildlife by providing nesting sites and shelter. In fact, the endangered California black tailed gnatcatcher bird is seldom found far from a laurel sumac. Unfortunately, as southern California continues to grow in population, the natural habitat of these shrubs is disappearing.

Lemonade berry, sugarbush, and laurel sumac are all available at native plant sales and may be found if one searches in some of the native plant nurseries. These species are good examples of plants that are valuable in the wild as well as effective in the garden.

Tom Oberbauer has a MS in Plant Ecology and is Environmental Management Specialist with San Diego County. He is active in California Native Plant Society and writes for "Fremontia" and "Environmental Southwest."

DID YOU KNOW:

The cashew nut forms in a most unusual manner. It appears as though one of its ends had been forcibly sunk into the calyx of a fleshy, pear-shaped fruit, called the cashew apple, which is about three times as large as the nut. The fruits are picked by hand and the nuts first detached, then thoroughly dried in the sun before being processed. In the countries where they are grown the apples are often used in candies and beverages..

A brown oil that is extremely irritating if it comes in contact with the skin, is extracted from between the outer and inner shells of the cashew is used in lubricants and pesticides. A.M.



50 YEARS AGO

by Carol Greentree

"Garden Tours Planned for Exposition Patrons"

San Diego has a reputation for garden hospitality. In a city where gardens bloom the year round —really have flowers in them from January 1 to December 31 — horticulturally minded folk from elsewhere naturally will have part of their thoughts centered on the new and fascinating plants to be seen . . .

San Diego, as host to America's Exposition this year will have a greater percentage of such visitors than ever before. The sharing of the garden tours will mean to many Exposition visitors trees they have never heard of, shrubs and vines only seen by them in hothouses, undreamed-of quantities of flowers, southern California style patios, pools, lath houses, brilliant cacti, succulent plantings and semi-tropical fruits hanging on their stems instead of lying in the paper lined baskets of fruit stands . . .

The Floral Association also plans host days at the Aloe and Agave garden and Cacti garden in Balboa Park, projects which it sponsors. Balboa Park will be the center of the garden attractions, containing as it does, the Exposition. Another fine park of great interest to visitors is Presidio Park, on the site of the birthplace of the California Missions.

May, 1935

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Book Reviews

Reviewed by Allethe Macdonald

THE SALAD GARDEN, Elizabeth, Arter, 1984, Croom Helm Ltd., 51 Washington St., Dover, UK, NH 03820, 6 1/4 x 9 1/4 in. hardback, \$15.00 (US), L8.95 net (UK only), 187 pp.

A delightful book that will entice any gardener to grow more salad vegetables of many different kinds, such as the oriental greens, a hybrid kale, celeriac, and, of course, the herbs so essential to a delectable salad.

The author not only gives growing guides but recipes for salad dressings and suggestions for delicious combinations of salad ingredients.

MUSHROOMS OF THE WORLD Coloring Book, Jeannette Bowers, text by David Arora, 1984, Dover Publications, Inc., 31 East 2nd St., Mineola, NY, 11501, 8 1/2 x 11 in. paperback, \$2.75, 48

Full page line drawings of the mushrooms will provide children with hours of entertainment and education as they turn to the colored illustrations on the inside front and back covers for the color to use on each mushroom. Under each species to be colored is a description of the mushroom and its habitat.

FLORA of the NORTHERN MOJAVE DESERT, CALIFORNIA, Marg DeDecker, Pub. by California Native Plant Society, 2380 Ellsworth St., Suite D, Berkeley, CA 94704, 6 x 9 in. paperback, \$8.95, 164 pp. plus XVI.

This compilation of all the vascular plant species of the northern Mojave Desert is the culmination of years of work by the author compiling data on these plants. The botanical name and a common one is given for each plant with its range, type of plant, color of conspicuous flowers, and often descriptive clues. A new endemic genus *Dedeckera*, a shrub, is named for DeDecker.

Pocket Encyclopedia of MODERN ROSES, Tony Gregory, 1984, Blandford Press, Link House, West St., Poole Dorset, UK, Distributed by Streling Publishing Co., Inc., Two Park Ave., New York, NY, 10016, 5 1/2 x 8 in. hardback, \$9.95 (US), \$12.95 (Can), 192 pp.

The true color of the rose is captured in nearly 300 close-up photographs, most of them by Gregory, a professional grower of roses in collaboration with his father.

Each rose is described with details on growing, date of introduction, flowering habit, color, hardness, and growth. There is a short chapter on the history of the modern rose. Gregory also includes chapters on cultivation requirements, pruning with graphics, and a glossary of rose terms.

The Goodhousekeeping Encyclopedia of HOUSE PLANTS, Rob Herwig, 1984 William Morrow & Co., Inc., 105 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10016, 9 x 12 in. hardback, \$19.95, 288 pp.

Anyone who grows or enjoys house plants will be delighted with this comprehensive and beautifully illustrated book with over 700 superb color photographs and 1500 plant descriptions. Translated from the Dutch, it is not surprising to find some plants included that are outdoor plants in warmer areas.

Herwig says in his introduction, "The care of plants is a serious hobby and genuine plant lovers require sound and detailed knowledge . . . I believe only the best is good enough for our plants."

BONSAI: the Complete Guide to Art & Technique, Paul Lesniewicz, 1984 Blandford Press, Poole Dorset, UK, distributed by Sterling Publishing Co., Two Park Ave., New York, NY 10016, 8 1/2 x 8 1/2 in. hardback, \$19.95 (US), \$24.95 (Can), 194 pp.

The author has succeeded in producing a book with superb color photographs to convey the appreciation of the art of bonsai, yet giving a completely practical guide with ideas, suggestions, and line drawings. The line drawings are so graphic in showing the techniques in potting, training, pruning, and grafting that even a novice could follow them with confidence.

Even those of us who do not want to grow bonsai will find this book gives them a deeper appreciation of bonsai.

THE SEX LIFE OF FLOWERS, Bastiaan Meeuse and Sean Morris, 1984, Facts on File Inc., 460 Park Ave. So., New York, NY 10016, 8 1/2 x 11 1/2 in. hardback, \$19.95, 152 pp.

The fascinating scientific facts about the astonishing variety of methods evolved by plants to achieve pollination is revealed with clarity, charm, and an infectious enthusiasm to the reader to better appreciate this facet of nature.

Not only color and fragrance but the pattern of color in a bloom guides insects to the nectar, their reward for pollinating. Would you like to know how a mouse or honey possum act as pollinators, or which plants kidnap certain flies, feeds them nectar and lures them into transferring the pollen on releasing them one to three days later, or the orchid which has a lower petal that so closely resembles certain female wasps that the male in trying to mate with it pollinates the orchid? It took one botanist 20 years to document this unbelievable act.

Meeuse, a botany professor and authority on pollination was the consultant and scientific advisor to the scientific film company that made the TV film "Sexual Encounters of the Floral Kind."

Sean Morris is a director and photographer of that company. This book is based on the film which was 8 years in the making.

HOW TO GROW CONIFERS, Brian & Valerie Proudley, 1984, Blandford Press, Poole Dorset, UK, distributed in the US by Sterling Publishing Co., Two Park Ave., New York, NY 10016, 5 x 7 1/4 in. paperback, \$3.95 (US), \$4.95 (Can), 95 pp.

The Proudleys give practical information on the versatility of the many species of conifers, how to select, plant, and care for them. This is a down-to-earth planting guide as a companion to their "Garden Conifers" reviewed in this column in March-April 1985.

AN INTRODUCTION TO CACTI, Danny Schuster, 1984, Blandford Press, Poole Dorset, UK, BH15 ILL, distributed in the US by Sterling Pub. Co., Two Park Ave., New York, NY 10016, 7 x 9 1/2 in. paperback, \$8.95 (US), \$11.95 (Can), 94 pp.

Starting with basic information on the distribution of cacti and how to grow them successfully indoors and outdoors, Schuster introduces the major genera with descriptions of their habitat, its body, flowers, spines, and species. The color photographs of each genera are very true to color and have excellent sharpness.

Common names are not given, but it is unlikely that the same common name would be used in New Zealand, the author's home, as in the United States, or Europe. If the reader finds this a fault, it is a minor one in a beautiful book.

WILDLIFE PEST CONTROL AROUND GARDENS & HOMES, Cooperative Extension Wildlife Specialists Terrell P. Salmon & Robert E. Lickliter, University of California at Davis, Publications, Div. of Agriculture & Natural Resources, U of C, 6701 San Pablo Ave., Oakland CA, 94608-1239, 6 x 9 in. paperback, \$8.00, 90 pp.

Color photographs of all the pests discussed, many black and white photographs, and line drawings illustrate this excellent handbook on control of the common pests most home owners encounter. The behavior pattern of the pests is included as well as the different methods of control and their effectiveness.

CUCUMBERS IN A FLOWERPOT, Alice Skelsey, Workman Pub. Co., 1 West 39th St., New York, NY 10018, 5 1/4 x 8 in. paperback, \$4.95, 144 pp.

Do not be misled by the title, Skelsey enthusiastically provides the information needed to grow over 125 kinds of vegetables including Orientals, and fruits: preparing the soil, selecting and sowing seeds, providing light, water, and harvesting. She also includes a list of seed catalogs from different sections of the United States as sources of varieties she recommends.

"A packet of seeds, a pot of soil, a spot of sunshine, that's all you need to become a city farmer. Why be content with philodendron and ivy just because you live in an apartment or townhouse? You should be growing fruits and vegetables instead!"

CORRECTION:

Jan.-Feb. 1985, page 27, under THE ART OF FLOWER ARRANGING — International Scholarly Book Service, 10230 S.W. Parkway, Portland, OR 97225.

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NOW IS THE TIME

compiled by PENNY BUNKER

A CULTURAL CALENDAR OF CARE FROM OUR AFFILIATES

BEGONIAS Margaret Lee

Now is the time

- to continue repotting.
- to prune plants for shaping and to encourage sidegrowth. Prune gradually about 1/3 of the plant at one time to avoid shock.
- to take cuttings for extra plants.
- to control pests and disease. The cold wet spring has created ideal conditions in which snails, slugs, and mildew thrive.
- to repot tubers as soon as they are 3 to 4 inches high. Place in strong filtered light.
- to feed plants with well-balanced all-purpose fertilizer; use 1/4 strength once a week.

BONSAI Dr. Herbert Markowitz

Now is the time

- to develop a watering schedule, but avoid overwatering, especially pines.
- to spray for insects as needed, using either a systemic or mild surface insecticide.
- to control any mildew that might appear; use sulphur dust or a liquid spray
- to pinch back cypress and juniper for dense growth, using tweezers or fingers to pluck out the tips at the joint. Do not use scissors; the tips will turn brown.
- to shape deciduous trees by June.
- to defoliate, in late June or early July, those trees on which it is desired to decrease the size of the foliage. They should be good healthy trees.
- to check wires during the growing season.
- to rotate trees often to maintain proper shape.
- to fertilize all trees with an organic fertilizer. Do not over fertilize the pines.

BROMELIADS Linda Prell

Now is the time

- to check for insects and take action if scale, mealybugs, spider mites, aphids, snails, or slugs are found.
- to check plants and remove offsets for repotting. These may be used to increase your supply of plants.
- to feed plants a balanced fertilizer at 1/2 strength once a week; if using a liquid, feed with regular waterings.
- to keep cups clean and filled with water.

to maintain humidity around plant areas.
to check plants for sunburn, especially if they were moved into a sunnier area for the winter.

CACTI & SUCCULENTS Frank Thrombley

Now is the time

- to use a systemic pesticide to control mealybugs, scale, nematodes, etc. Water
- to water thoroughly the soil around the base of the plant, but try to keep the plant dry.
- to plan for summer sun or shade requirements for your plants. For those living in cold climates, your plants will appreciate the fresh air and sun. Be sure to shade those that need it.
- to start, or continue fertilizing program. Remember some plants go dormant in summer and do not need fertilizing.
- to transplant pot-bound plants. The earlier the better, so they will have time to become established before cold weather.
- to groom plants; remove dead leaves, spent flowers, debris, and dirt to keep them neat and attractive.
- to repot newly acquired plants into the soil or potting mix you normally use. This will allow you to maintain your established watering schedule without worrying about overwatering due to a mix that is not porous enough.

CAMELLIAS San Diego Camellia Society

Now is the time

- to start a feeding program when they finish blooming. Use an acid-type fertilizer, cottonseed meal, camellia food, or liquid fish.
- to be sure to water well the day before feeding.
- to establish a regular watering schedule. Do not allow plants to completely dry out.
- to repot plants that have outgrown their containers.
- to mulch plants with bark chips or pine needles.
- to establish a regular spray program for pests. Watch for aphids and looper worms on tender new growth.
- to make the major pruning, removing all weak and dead growth. Tip prune to shape the plant.

DAHLIAS Abe Janzen

Now is the time

- to water when top of soil is dry. When buds are forming, soak deeply and more often.
- to feed with low-nitrogen fertilizer (4-10-10), either dry or liquid.
- to spray regularly for leaf miners, aphids, and thrips.

- to pinch centers when there are two or three sets of leaves.
- to plant smaller varieties.
- to give regular care to growing plants.

EPIPHYLLUMS Frank Granstowski

Now is the time

- to protect foliage from hot summer sun
It is best to keep plants in filtered sunlight.
- to water regularly. Keep soil moist but not wet. Use base watering or a fine misting spray to avoid injury to blooms.
- to bait for slugs and snails. A few granules of Sluggeta at the base of the plants has proven to be effective and leaves little or no residue.
- to remove spent and wilted blooms by cutting about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch from base of the flower. Use a sharp knife or pruning scissors. This method is also advised when cutting flowers for display purposes.
- to continue grooming plants. Prune older branches that are no longer productive. Many of the aerioles are calloused and scarred from previous blooms. These cuttings can be used to start new plants.
- to repot cuttings and plants that have outgrown their containers.

FERNS Ray Sodomka

Now is the time

- to remove dead fronds.
- to plant spore.
- to use high-nitrogen fertilizer, liquid or pellets, twice a month.
- to spray for aphids and scale if necessary.
- to water thoroughly. Maintain humidity by wetting surrounding areas.

FUCHSIAS William Selby

Now is the time

- to watch for insects and pests and spray or use a systemic eradicator. Use amount recommended by manufacturer or less. Do not use an oil spray.
- to be sure to water an hour or more prior to application of an insecticide.
- to watch plants. If pruned 6 to 8 weeks ago, there should be loads of new growth. As this growth gets three or four sets of leaves, remove the outermost set. Continue to pinch until you have a lush plant. Stop pinching 6 to 8 weeks prior to time you want blossoms.
- to keep containers clean inside and out; remove dead leaves and blooms.
- to turn baskets regularly so plants grow evenly.
- to control snails use metaldehyde or other bait according to directions.
- to water only as needed, but keep moist, not wet.

GERANIUMS Carol Roller

Now is the time

- to water thoroughly when plants become somewhat dry. Allow excess to drain away. Keep foliage as dry as possible.
- to continue feeding a balanced fertilizer dissolved in water, using less than the recommended strength as often as needed. to keep plants growing well.
- to continue a pest control and disease prevention program using all products, according to the manufacturer's directions.
- to groom plants removing discolored leaves and faded flowers.
- to avoid taking cuttings from regal pelargoniums, since this is their flowering season. Cuttings may be taken from ivies and zonals, if desired.
- to protect tender plants from the sun, if the temperature is high.
- to continue to rotate plants on a regular basis in order to produce well-shaped plants.
- to enjoy your geraniums at the height of their season.

GESNERIADS (African Violets, Gloxinias, etc.)

Mike Ludwig

Now is the time

- to feed, feed, feed — this is important to promote growth.
- to maintain pest control — spray with a non-oil base spray to prevent leaf damage.
- to prevent burning of the leaves from too much sun, it may be necessary to move the plants at times or provide shade.
- to be careful to mist foliage in the morning or evening on hot days.
- to water in the evenings, NEVER in the morning on hot days.
- to be careful when watering on cloudy or hazy days. Plants should not stay too wet nor should they dry out.
- to take cuttings for extra plants and for friends.
- to prolong the flower season by keeping spent blooms picked off.

IRIS San Diego-Imperial Counties Iris Society

Now is the time

- to continue watering blooming plants.
- to prepare beds for replanting tall-bearded iris after blooming. Work in humus, soil sulphur, and some decomposed manure.
- to allow surfaces of rhizomes to dry, and be exposed to the sunlight before replanting.
- Give a light dusting of soil sulphur on the wounds. May be placed in vitamin B1 solution for awhile before planting.

- to watch for aphids; may use a systemic insecticide.
- to keep Siberian iris damp. Feed them camellia food for additional growth.
- to fertilize Japanese iris by adding camellia food to the water in which they are growing.
- to feed spurias with low-nitrogen fertilizer.
- to feed Louisianas with a balanced food, but wait until June to dig and transplant.

ORCHIDS Charlie Fouquette

Now is the time

- to spray on hot, dry days.
- to shade areas that are getting too much bright sunlight.
- to remember to water seedlings lightly. Water in the morning and/or afternoon so the leaves will be dry by nightfall.
- to maintain pest control against red spider, mealybug, and scale. Use malathion or non-petroleum derivatives.
- to use metaldehyde for slug and snail control.
- to protect plants that are in bud or spike against sudden temperature changes and drafts.
- to check misting heads; water may have enlarged the orifice. If spray is not real fine, replace the heads.
- to aid cattleyas — repot those with new growth. Put the back growths that are a bit shy of roots in a clear plastic bag. Include 3 or 4 bulb divisions with good eyes. Blow up plastic bag with your breath (CO₂) — seal, hang up, then watch for new growth and roots.
- to feed cymbidiums high nitrogen (30-10-10) and a complete balanced fertilizer for phals and cattleyas. Dilute for seedlings and oncidiums.
- to stake the spike and blooms on plants that need it and do not rotate plants from their growing position once they have started budding and forming spikes. This includes phalaenopsis, doris, oncidiums, cattleyas.
- to check Desert cooler if you have one. Check oil cups; use good 30 wt. oil. Check fan belt tension. To remove any sodium build up on the fiber, put 2 quarts of vinegar in the water reservoir.
- to clean hot house windows and/or house windows.
- to water Quitant oncidiums in the mornings. Let dry before nightfall. Fertilize lightly.
- to obtain desired plants from local growers or society members. Some good award divisions are available.

ROSES Brian Donn

Now is the time

- to keep bushes well watered during hot dry spells.
- to spray at ten day intervals with an all-purpose product, such as, Orthene, which combines fungicide, insecticide, and miticide. Follow manufacturer's directions carefully. Thorough coverage is important.
- to feed established plants a complete rose food with trace elements (iron, zinc, manganese), or apply these separately.
- to spread 1 ounce of epsom salts around each bush once or twice a year. This has been found to encourage strong new growth.
- to feed newly planted bushes with weekly feedings of diluted liquid plant food.
- to spread a layer of mulch 1 inch deep under the bushes. This conserves moisture, keeps the roots cool, and adds humus.

VEGETABLES

Now is the time

- to plant seeds of beets, carrots, turnips, radishes, snap beans, both bush and pole, summer squash, corn, and cucumbers. May put in small plants of summer squash and cucumbers if they are available. They will produce crops sooner than those started from seed.
- to plant leafy vegetables such as lettuce, endive and spinach in locations which are partially shaded during the warm summer months.
- to fertilize vegetables growing in good soil (except corn, lettuce, and tomatoes) every three to four weeks and those in poor soil, or where they are in competition with roots or other plants more frequently.
- to fertilize corn when 8 inches high and again when 18 inches tall.
- to fertilize lettuce once when it is half grown.
- to fertilize tomatoes once a month after fruit has formed, but not before.
- to use a fertilizer that is blended for vegetables and follow directions on the container for the amount and methods of application.
- to water in furrows, by flooding, or by drip irrigation instead of sprinkling, which can increase the amount of disease on some kinds of vegetables, such as summer squash and cucumbers.
- to plant later when weather is warmer, lima beans, winter squash, watermelon, and cantaloupe.

**SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION
& GARDEN CENTER**

*Under the sponsorship of the
Park & Recreation Department
City of San Diego*

(continued)

SAN DIEGO EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY

Pres: Mr. Eugene Lund 469-1677
5666 Aztec Or, La Mesa 92041
2nd Wed, Casa del Prado, 7:30 p.m.

SAN DIEGO FERN SOCIETY

Pres: Mr. Marvin Haworth 465-2727
10453 Fairhill Or, Spring Valley 92077
3rd Thurs, Casa del Prado, 7:30 p.m.

SAN DIEGO FUCHSIA & SHADE PLANT SOCIETY

Pres: Mr. Ron Berkel 465-7649
1142 Osage Dr, Spring Valley 92077
2nd Mon, Casa del Prado, 7:30 p.m.

SAN DIEGO GERANIUM SOCIETY

Pres: Mrs. Eugene Cooper 295-7938
4444 Arista Or, San Diego 92103
2nd Tues, Casa del Prado, 7:30 pm

SAN DIEGO GESNERIA SOCIETY

Pres: Mr. Mike Ludwig 574-1138
642 Torrance St, San Diego 92103
1st Thurs, Casa del Prado, 7:30pm

SAN DIEGO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

Pres: Dr. Leroy Phelps 280-8690
4094 - 36th St, San Diego 92104
2nd Sat, Casa del Prado, 1:30 p.m.
SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY
Pres: Mr. John Nichols 435-4971
1026 Flora Ave, Coronado 92118
3rd Wed, Casa del Prado, 7:30 p.m.

SAN DIEGO COUNTY BRANCH,

NATIONAL FUCHSIA SOCIETY

Pres: Mr. Mike Reilly 434-1838
4024 Crescent Pt. Rd, Carlsbad 92008
2nd Thurs, Heritage Hall, McGee Park
258 Beech, Carlsbad, 7:00 p.m.

SAN DIEGO COUNTY OAHIA SOCIETY

Pres: Mr. Martin Walsh 277-5165
4077 Mt. Everest Blvd, San Diego 92111
4th Tue, Casa del Prado, 7:30 p.m.

SAN DIEGO COUNTY HERB SOCIETY

Pres: Mrs. Barbara Baker 755-9226
P.O. Box 1387, Rancho Santa Fe 92067
2nd Sat, Homes of Members, 11:00 am
(No meetings in July or August.)

SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY

Pres: Mr. Jesse Canale 274-1144
3436 Brandywine St, San Diego 92117
1st Tues, Casa del Prado, 7:30 p.m.

SAN DIEGO ODAYTIME AFRICAN VIOLET SOC.

Pres: Mrs. Toni Baker 582-7516
6475 - 50th St, San Diego 92120
2nd Mon, Fellowship Hall, Christ United
Methodist Church, 3295 Meade, 12 Noon

SAN DIEGO-IMPERIAL COUNTIES IRIS SOC.

Pres: Mrs. Archie Owen 753-7648
227 Peckham Place, Encinitas 92024
3rd Sun, Glendale Federal 6SL
740 Lomas Santa Fe, Solana Beach, 1:pm
SAN DIEGO ROSE SOCIETY

Pres: Mr. Henry McCarty 749-8560
28034 Glenmeade Way, Escondido 92026
3rd Mon, Casa del Prado, 7:30 p.m.
SOCIETY SCHOOL OF IKBANA

Pres: Mrs. Leroy Lahey 423-1571
2829 Flax Or, San Diego 92154

SOUTHWEST GROUP, JUDGES COUNCIL

Chair: Mrs. Ralph E. Rosenberg 295-1537
3671 Pringle St, San Diego 92110

1st Wed, Casa del Prado, 10:00 a.m.

SOUTHWEST HEMEROCALLIS SOCIETY

Pres: Mr. C. R. Bowman 273-7937
3927 Sequoia St, San Diego 92109
1st Sat, Feb-Apr-Jun-Sep-Nov, 10:am.

Quail Gardens Meeting Room

Quail Gardens Rd, Encinitas

VILLAGE GARDEN CLUB OF LA JOLLA

Pres: Mrs. Edward Sheldon 456-0506
656 Granville Place, La Jolla 92037
4th Thurs, La Jolla United Methodist
6063 La Jolla Blvd, La Jolla, 1:00pm

PROFESSIONAL DIVISION

**CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF NURSERYMEN,
SAN DIEGO CHAPTER**

Pres: Mr. Hank Coide 297-4216
5115 Linda Vista Rd, San Diego 92110

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HORTICULTURE CALENDAR

(Continued from page 66)

June 15,16

San Diego Fuchsia & Shade Plant Society Annual Show

Casa del Prado, Majorca Room, Balboa Park

Sat: 12:00 to 5:00 pm Sun: 10:00 am to 5:00 pm Free

June 18

San Diego Floral
Event

San Diego Floral Association 78th annual meeting "A GALA FESTIVAL"

Covered Dish Dinner & Installation of Officers

Casa del Prado, Majorca Room, Balboa Park

Tues: 6:00 pm

June 19 - 23

33rd Annual Lompoc Valley Flower Festival "Favorite Movies"

Festival Opens Wed. 6:00 pm Lompoc, CA

June 22,23

Lompoc Alpha Club 63rd Annual Flower Show

Veterans Memorial Bldg., South H & Locust Sts., Lompoc CA

Sat: 1:00 to 8:00 pm Sun: 10:00 am to 6:00 pm Adm.

June 20-July 7

San Diego Floral
Event

"Garden Section California Garden" Exhibit & Magazine Sale

Garden Section, Southern California Exposition

Del Mar Fairgrounds, Del Mar, CA

Daily: 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

June 20-July 7

Flower & Garden Show - Southern California Exposition

Del Mar Fairgrounds, Del Mar, CA

Exhibits Open 10:00 am to 10:00 pm

ALOHA

JOIN AN ORCHID FANCIER'S TOUR OF HAWAII
October 15-22, 1985


SPEND 7 FUN-FILLED DAYS AND NIGHTS IN BEAUTIFUL HAWAII

- * VISIT HAWAII'S ANNUAL HONOLULU ORCHID SHOW
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California through San Diego, Invites the world 1935

In the peaceful quiet of a vast and picturesque park, close by the Pacific, San Diego presents to the world in 1935 th spectacle of the harnessed forces of man's restless energies: his search for beauty and romance, his love of adventure and progress, his insatiable curiosity to pierce the realm of the unknown.

San Diego Presents the CALIFORNIA PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION

MAY 29 - - - - NOVEMBER 11, 1935

History

From Cabrillo's discovery of the harbor that lies behind the jutting Point Loma, the years will march in parade through the colorful exhibits.

Art

The rare and priceless works of the masters, the treasures of antiquity, the masterpieces of sculpture.

Beauty

By day, the radiance of Nature blends with the graceful spires and delicate frescoes of old Spanish architecture. Luxuriant trees and exotic tropical foliage line long, winding promenades. At night, soft illumination will cloak the scene. In all, a pageant of scientific achievement, the drama of man's struggle.

And over the whole enchanting scene will hang the spirit of joy; gay music, sports, the time-honored institutions of the carnival, modernized by the myriad improvements of science; thrills on water, land and in the air . . . a galaxy to test the imagination.

THROUGH YOUR LETTERS . . . TELL THE WORLD

While recalling "California Garden" magazine's history at the end of its 75th year, we note the 50th anniversary of one of the major events of those years—the CALIFORNIA PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION.

"California Garden" and the San Diego Floral Association contributed their talents in making the exposition so successful.

The above reprint appeared in "California Garden" several times, the last one in May 1935.